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February 17, 2017

Bob Bailey, MPP
805 Christina St N #102
Point Edward, ON
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Dear Mr. Bailey:

On behalf of the members of the Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce, we would like to convey the importance of restoring Ontario's competitiveness to the business community in our constituency and to the constituents within the riding who depend upon a vibrant business sector in Sarnia-Lambton to support families within our region.

This is a time of both challenge and opportunity for Ontario. The 2017 budget should address the current fiscal environment by encouraging private investment and demonstrating fiscal prudence. The budget can also be used as a tool for economic growth and to support Ontario business. This requires reducing the costs of doing business in Ontario, emphasizing strategic infrastructure development and working to foster business competitiveness.

The Ontario Chamber network, comprised of chambers of commerce, including the Sarnia Lambton Chamber, have identified four key budget priorities Ontario can seize right now to regain its competitiveness, improve its productivity and grow its economy.

Three policy areas that are of particular importance to the Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce include the timely expansion of broadband internet access, particularly in rural and remote areas; allowing small business owners' children access to student loans and reducing the public sector's total compensation premium. These policies recommendations were formulated by Sarnia Lambton Chamber members and adopted by the Ontario Chamber network over the past three years.

One other budget priority that the Sarnia Lambton Chamber strongly endorses is securing funding for the Oversized Load Corridor, an initiative that would help create jobs, increase trade and ease congestion.

We have included additional information on the Chamber network's pre-budget submission. We ask you to read the report, particularly the sections noted above that are of particular importance for our community and to consider these priorities during budget deliberations. The Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce would welcome the opportunity to discuss one or all of them—and how we can work together—with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark red ink that reads "Shirley de Silva".

Shirley de Silva
President and CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Lumley".

Mark Lumley
Board Chair

The Business Voice of Choice